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Rifle Regiment

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. 25X1

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1. The 45th Gds Mecz Rifle Regt moved on 10 May 1951 by railroad from Traiskirchen (O 49/X 37) to Allenstein (also Allensteig, as written on Enclosure (A)) (O49/A53). This move was from the winter caserne to the summer training camp. One rifle company was left to guard the caserne for a period of one month, after which it was replaced by another company. No weapons or equipment, except those belonging to the company which was guarding the camp, were left in the winter caserne. All weapons and equipment on the regimental T/E were taken to the summer training camp.
2. Three trains, each composed of 25 to 30 cars, were needed to move the 45th Gds Mecz Rifle Regt: one train transported the tank battalion; the second train transported the artillery pieces and towing vehicles; the third train transported the remainder of the vehicles and the personnel. Thirty men were loaded into each rail car, in which wooden bunks were set up for sleeping accommodations. The movement of the entire regiment took about 24 hours. A howitzer regiment and several other units of the 13th Gds Mecz Div were already in camp.

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3. All food was served by the regimental mess, using the same facilities as those available in the winter quarters. Athletic facilities were provided only for outdoor soccer and volleyball. Twice each week a movie was shown out-of-doors. Bathing had to be done every 10 days, prior to receiving clean underwear. The troops had to wash themselves from small pails with hot water, that had been heated in a large boiler. Only cold water was available from taps in either the summer training area or the winter quarters. For the location and disposition of the summer training area, including quarters, supply and training facilities, see Encl 7

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4. Rigid restrictions were imposed on both officers and EM at the summer training camp. No one was allowed to leave the camp at any time. Bedchecks were conducted every night at 2400, and between 0300 and 0400 hours; the checks were usually made by the OD and the CQ of the individual companies.

5. Training commenced [] about 10 days after arrival in the summer training area. The unit's personnel were occupied for the first 10 days with cleaning and repairing the camp. The daily training schedule [] including calls, was as follows:

0600	Reveille
0605 - 0630	Physical training
0630 - 0640	Personal toilet
0640 - 0650	Cleaning of barracks
0650 - 0700	Inspection
0700 - 0730	Breakfast
0730 - 0800	Regimental morning formation
0800 - 1400	Training [See [] "Soviet Garrison Training"]
1400 - 1440	Dinner
1440 - 1500	Cleaning of weapons
1500 - 1630	Rest period (all men had to remain in bed)
1630 - 1830	Training
1830 - 1910	Political reading
1910 - 1930	Cleaning of weapons
1930 - 2000	Supper
2000 - 2100	Home work
2100 - 2230	Free time
2230 - 2300	Evening formation and roll call
2300	Taps
0100 - 0300	Night training (infantry tactics and night patrolling)

6. The only free time allowed to Soviet soldiers was between 2100 and 2230 hours on weekday evenings, and Sunday afternoons. Sunday mornings were usually devoted to compulsory outdoor sports. In bad weather, Sunday mornings were occupied with political reading and home work. The Saturday schedule was the same as that on weekdays, except that after 1500 the men cleaned up the barracks and surrounding areas.

7. Training during the first three months of the summer training phase was conducted on the squad, platoon, company and battalion levels. Training during the second three months of the summer training phase was conducted on the company, battalion, and regimental levels. Final maneuvers were conducted on division level. [] all units of the 13th Gds Mecz Div participated in the maneuvers.

[] the remainder of the sub-units were also participating. [] a regiment from a division [u/1/, which acted as the enemy force.

8. [] every unit was employed in its own capacity, and [] no [] weapons or equipment were pooled in order to bring any unit up to its full T/O & E requirements when the division moved into the summer training area. [] every unit in the Soviet Zone of Austria was maintained at its full wartime T/O & E.

9. [] major types of weapons in the maneuver area: T-34/85 and JS-3 tanks, 57 mm AT guns, 37 mm and 85 mm AAA guns, JSU-249 and SU-76 SP Arty, 122 mm Model 1938 howitzers, and 132 mm Model M-13 rocket launchers.

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generals:Command or AssignmentName and Rank

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| (a) CG of the Soviet Army Group in Austria | Gen Lt (fnu) Sviridov |
| (b) Member of the War Council | Gen Maj (fnu) Pomorzov |
| (c) CG of the Soviet Occupation Forces in Austria | Unk |
| (d) CG of the Soviet Armored Forces in Austria | Unk |
| (e) CG of the Soviet Artillery Forces in Austria | Unk |
| (f) CG of the 95th Rifle Division | Unk |
| (g) CG of the 13th Gds Mecz Division | Unk |
| (h) [redacted] 10 other generals from the Central Army Group,
in addition to those mentioned above. | |

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11. One large-scale motor movement was made during the maneuvers (October 1951), which involved all vehicles, tanks, and artillery pieces of the 13th Gds Mecz Div. The convoy, composed of echelons of regiments and separate battalions, covered a distance of 60 to 100 km in about seven hours. It moved only during the daylight hours, at a speed of between 25 and 30 km per hour and halted many times for unknown reasons.

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[redacted] the interval between vehicles was from 25 to 30 m.

12. During the summer training period in Allentsteig, one long march was made on foot.

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[redacted] The battalions left the regimental compound at 0600 hours and marched to a firing range, located three km away, by a roundabout route which covered 35 km and took three hours. The unusual speed during the march was attained by marching double-time over much of the distance. The troops ran for a distance of two km and then walked for one km in order to catch their breath; no breaks were made during the march. At the firing range, each soldier fired seven rounds at targets which had been set up previously. The noon meal, consisting only of bread, was eaten at the range. Then the battalions returned on foot to the regimental compound by the direct three km route, arriving at 2000 hours. The maneuvers constituted a continuous day and night problem, lasting for 10 days. An additional area of approximately 240 square km was used for the maneuvers

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13. All vehicle repair trucks, food (including the bn kitchen) and POL supply depots and medical aid stations moved into the field with the troops. Two guard platoons were left in the summer training area, during the maneuvers, to protect the clothing and equipment supply depots. I observed field telephones and several radios on the maneuvers, and think that radio and telephone communication nets were set up during the maneuvers, but am not able to give detailed information about them.

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- 25X1 14. [redacted] branches of service represented during the maneuvers: infantry, armored, artillery, signal corps, sappers and engineers. [redacted]
- 25X1 [redacted] The scheme of the maneuver concerned a reinforced mecz regt attacking and annihilating an enemy that had occupied an area and hastily taken up defensive positions. [redacted]
- 25X1 [redacted] This maneuver stressed offensive tactics. The attacking force was the reinforced mecz regt; and the defending enemy force was the 55th Rifle Regt. An umpire, ranking from captain to colonel, was assigned to each company and possessed a map containing the solution to the maneuver problem. Each umpire controlled the movement of his own company and communicated with the battalion umpire by radio.
15. Upon completion of the maneuvers, a critique was held, at which all officers of the division were required to be present. [redacted] 25X1 all of the general officers mentioned above /See para #10/ were also present. [redacted] there were two major deficiencies noted in the maneuvers: first, many of the officers failed to organize their troops to effectively ward off the enemy counter-attacks; second, many company grade officers were incapable of reading a map properly -- there were several instances of entire companies being lost in the woods for several days because their officers could not read maps.
16. In the summer training area, the main complaints concerned the very severe restrictions imposed on all the personnel, and the extremely long period of duty each day. All other conditions in the summer camp, including the food and recreational facilities, were the same as those in the winter quarters.
17. The only major incidents which occurred among the EM showing a lack of discipline, were the repeated refusals of some EM to carry out orders given by officers and NCO's. In the summer training area, there was some drunkenness, but to a lesser degree than in winter quarters; this was probably because liquor was more difficult to obtain in the summer camp. In any instance of bad discipline, the offender was not to be punished until the division returned to the winter quarters. [redacted] an u/i EM of the 13th Gds Mecz Div killed an u/i officer in an argument [redacted] 25X1 [redacted] Higher Hq published two directives pertaining to the existing laxity in discipline: drunkenness was punishable by one year of hard labor; having a dirty weapon was punishable by three years of hard labor. No special orders were published pertaining to punishment for refusal to obey orders.
- 25X1 18. [redacted] the winter quarters [redacted] 25X1 was again made by railroad, in the same manner as the movement to the summer training area /See paras #1 and 2/. Only one sergeant and two privates were left in the summer training area as guards, when the division departed. No equipment of any kind was left behind. [redacted]
- 25X1 [redacted]

Miscellaneous

19. [redacted] Soviet personnel were told by their political officers that dependents were not freely admitted in Austria because there was too much fraternization, and that there had also been a great deal of trading on the black market, so it was better not to have dependents living there. 25X1

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20. Officers in the Soviet Army in Austria were permitted to go into town only to shop. They were not allowed to visit restaurants, nightclubs or participate in any type of recreational activity. EM were not allowed to go into town for any reason, or at any time. They were restricted to the regimental compound at all times. No one heeded these restrictions, even though when an individual was caught disobeying them, his punishment ranged from 30 days imprisonment for a first or second offense, and five years of hard labor for the third offense.

21. Officers were allowed 40 to 60 days leave per year. EM, however, were not authorized any annual leave, except in the case of an emergency or in cases of exceptionally good conduct and performance of duty. In such cases, EM were given not more than 25 days leave.

25X1 [redacted] Officers accumulated leave time according to their length of service. EM were granted only meritorious or compassionate leave. All of the EM complained about the existing leave policy, but they were continually told that they had to serve in the army for only three years, and an absence from their home for such a short period of time would not be detrimental to their personal lives or morale.

22. The following incidents [redacted] 25X1 [redacted] reveal a lack of discipline among the EM:

(a) On weekends there was an average of eight to 10 soldiers being held in the guardhouse; on holidays, the number increased to 17 or 18; on weekdays there were never fewer than four.

(b) There was a great deal of drunkenness [redacted] 30 per cent 25X1 of the men drank very heavily.

(c) [redacted] few cases of venereal disease, in fact, during the year 1951, [redacted] only one case of syphilis in the entire division.

(d) [redacted] instances of disobedience, [redacted] 25X1 there were many.

23. [redacted] morale was quite low [redacted] 25X1 [redacted] most of the soldiers were just displeased with the necessity of being in the army. [redacted] none of the privileges enjoyed by the officers were resented by the EM. [redacted]

24. Over a period of three years the following military personnel were sent back to the USSR for various reasons noted below: [redacted]

(a) Two EM were sentenced to hard labor for life for political unreliability.

(b) Two EM were sentenced to seven years at hard labor for political unreliability.

(c) One officer was sentenced to five years at hard labor (also for political unreliability).

(d) Five men were discharged from the army because they had tuberculosis.

25X1 In addition, [redacted] one EM [redacted] had been shot while in Austria 25X1 for the murder of an officer.

25X1 25. [redacted] there were air raid defense measures in operation in the cities of the USSR [redacted] 25X1

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Enclosure (A): Location Sketch of Summer Training Camp at Allensteig, Austria

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Enclosure A

Location Sketch of Summer Training Camp atALLEPSTEIN (4841N-1519E), Austria

LEGEND

The compounds and other areas were not fenced off or guarded, except where the symbol for barbed wire fence is shown on the sketch.

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A. Compound of the 45th Gds Mecz Regt, 13th Gds Mecz Div

All structures in the compound were one-story, wooden buildings, 35 x 10 m.

1. Officers' mess and PX
2. Regimental Hq
3. Field grade officers' quarters
4. POL dump, 100 x 100 m, which contained an unknown number of gasoline drums.
5. Artillery supply dump
6. Tank park, 40 x 20 m
7. Motor pool of the Technical Services Co, 20 x 20 m
8. Hq and barracks of the Arty Bn
9. EM messhall
10. EM barracks of the 5th Co
11. Hq of the 2d Bn and barracks of the 6th Co
12. Food supply room
13. 1st Bn Hq and barracks of the 1st Co
14. Barracks of the 2d and 3d Cos
15. Regimental NCO school
16. Motor pool and artillery park, 300 x 100 m
17. Clothing and equipment supply room
18. EM messhall,
19. Barracks of the 4th Co
20. Gas mask and protective clothing supply room, and Guard room
21. Recon Co barracks
22. Officers' quarters
23. Regimental dispensary

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- B. Compound of an u/i AAA Regt, 13th Gds Mecz Div
- C. Compound of an u/i How Regt, 13th Gds Mecz Div
- D. Compound of an u/i Rocket Launcher Regt, 13th Gds Mecz Div
- E. Compound of the 46th Gds Mecz Regt, 13th Gds Mecz Div
- F. Compound of the 106th Hv SP & Tk Regt, 13th Gds Mecz Div
- G. Compound of the 15th Tk Regt, 13th Gds Mecz Div
- H. Hq, 13th Gds Mecz Div
- I. Compound of an u/i Motor Cycle Bn, 13th Gds Mecz Div
- J. Compound of an u/i Mortar Regt, 13th Gds Mecz Div

□ - Buildings

△ AOP - Air observation post

- - - Trenches

x-x-x - Barbed wire fence

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